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Letter dated 9 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 6 October 1995, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 6 October 1995 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 6 October 1995, addressed to you by His Excellency President Rauf R. Denktaş, in connection with the efforts of the Greek Cypriot administration to shift the negotiating process from the United Nations onto the European Union platform and the stepping-up of its militarization campaign (see appendix).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its appendix could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

I have deemed it necessary to share with you my views and concerns concerning the recent joint Greek-Greek Cypriot military manoeuvres.

Developments over the recent years have clearly demonstrated that the Greek Cypriot side is not in favour of a negotiated settlement in Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Clerides has effectively distanced himself from the negotiating table and the confidence-building measures exercise, and has been imposing preconditions for holding meetings with me, in an effort to alter the agenda and frustrate the process of implementation of the confidence-building measures.

The efforts of the Greek Cypriot side to frustrate the negotiating process and shift it from the United Nations onto the European Union platform is also actively supported by Greece. Greece's Foreign Ministry European Affairs Under-Secretary Yorgos Mangakis, in an interview with the Greek Cypriot daily Agon on 13 August 1995, stated that Cyprus had remained in a "mortal unstable state" under the United Nations for 21 years; there had been no development in the way of finding a solution; but as soon as the European Union became operative, Cyprus had ceased being in that state; had risen from the grave and was no longer on her own.

Mangakis said that the United Nations General Assembly, which had adopted various resolutions on Cyprus for 21 years, had done nothing about their implementation. He went on to say the following:

> "The Cyprus problem which is an important national cause has been in a 'mortal unstable state' for 21 years. The so-called ongoing negotiations did not yield any results. Nothing has come out of these negotiations in favour of the Greek side and Greece but a lot has come out which was in favour of the Turks. The impression which has been created in the world was that, as the Cyprus problem was a problem under the auspices of the Security Council of the United Nations, the Cyprus problem thus remained as an open problem. In actual fact all the things which were done - the peaceful initiatives, etc., of the Secretary-General - amounted to nothing more than keeping the problem where it was.
>
> "This situation gave Turkey the opportunity of creating negative conditions in the occupied areas. But now the European Union has already become operative. At present the European Union has become a rival of the United Nations.
>
> "With the coming of the European Union into operation, the Cyprus problem has become independent of the 'mortal unstable state'. I feel free to say that Cyprus has come out of the 'grave', revived and from now on it is not on his own. With the commencing of the dialogue for European membership Cyprus has reached the stage of being a member of the European family. At present is part of Europe. It is not on her own."

As Your Excellency is, no doubt, also well aware, the intransigence of the Greek Cypriot side has been coupled with its engagement in an unprecedented military build-up, and continual warmongering and hostile activities. The implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" of the Greek Cypriot side with Greece has been under way with full vigour for some time now with the addition of new deadly weapons to the Greek Cypriot arsenal every day.

The Greek Cypriot side announced that, within the context of the "joint defence doctrine", naval and air bases at Paphos will be constructed for use by Greek forces. The air base is expected to be ready early in 1996, while the construction of the naval base will be completed in 1997.

The above development, together with the recent joint Greek-Greek Cypriot manoeuvres, code named "Nikiforos 1995", are clear manifestations of the mounting hostile and provocative stance of the Greek Cypriot side, undermining the efforts for a negotiated settlement.

Nikiforos 1995 exercises were held in conjunction with a nautical and air force exercise (Toxotis-3) by Greece in the eastern Aegean. In addition to the Greek jets, Greek warships, a destroyer, a frigate and a submarine also joined the manoeuvres. It was the first time that Greek warplanes used live ammunition during the exercises, bombing land targets in south Cyprus. It was for the first time that four Greek fighters landed at Paphos.

The recent military manoeuvres in south Cyprus are said to be the biggest and most elaborate ever, with the participation of reservists in addition to the conscripts. Military sources stated before the manoeuvres that the aim was to familiarize troops with war operations and that the scenario of the exercise outlines "a deepening of a crisis in the relations with the enemy which leads to a confrontation". The same sources also announced that its scenario involved an attempt to "recapture heights taken by enemy forces".

The ongoing military preparations in south Cyprus are by no means defensive in nature. They are clear indications of the Greek Cypriots' adventurous designs, posing a serious threat to peace and security in the region.

This has also been evidenced by the recent statements by the Greek and Greek Cypriot leadership on the occasion of the joint military exercises. The Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Clerides has outlined that the exercise was the largest ever held in Cyprus and that there will be bigger ones than this. He further stressed that "every defence action includes the element of attack". It is noteworthy that when Mr. Clerides uttered those words, he was dressed in military uniform!

Greek Cypriot Defence Minister Mr. Eliades said that the "joint defence dogma" was now a reality, especially after the participation of the Greek jets in the exercises. The Greek Defence Minister Mr. Arsenis has claimed that "the defence pact changes the military balance in the area in favour of Greece". The Greek Cypriot National Guard Commander Vorvolakos has announced boastfully that "the defence pact means action, not words. For us Nikiforos will continue until we see Cyprus free and unified".

The above statements and latest developments, once again, show the belligerent and offensive stance of the Greek Cypriot side and reveal the actual aim of the ongoing military preparations in south Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot side intends to upset the equilibrium in Cyprus and ignite a dangerous conflict in the island. The irrationality of a recourse to arms is self-evident. But the dangers inherent under the present circumstances are also apparent. Simply ignoring the problem is not going to make it go away. Given the declared Greek Cypriot aim of "redeeming" the north and Hellenizing the island, and the propensity of Greek Cypriots to use force, it is obvious that the recent atmosphere of hostility created by the Greek Cypriot side is seriously jeopardizing the peace and tranquillity in the island. I would, therefore, kindly request that you take all the necessary measures to put an end to this unacceptable turn of events in south Cyprus. If the situation persists, the Turkish Cypriot side may be forced to take necessary reciprocal measures in defence of its legitimate rights and very survival.

(Signed) Rauf R. Denktaş
President